



Courtesy Tyler Kruse

From the governor: Charting a course for jobs, Hawai'i values

Jobs, climate change and standing firm on island values — now and for the future. This issue of Capitol Connection discusses the governor's vision for Hawai'i's 21st century job growth, the state's leadership in support of the Paris climate accord, Hōkūle'a's historic homecoming, and the issues he considers in signing bills into law.

Q. Why is innovation so important to Hawai'i's future job outlook?

A. Our current unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country. Up to now, Hawai'i has been able to create jobs for our people, but as a state we have to adopt new approaches so we can compete and encourage innovation. Studies show that two-thirds of new jobs will come from the innovation sector — whether it's new businesses, new technology or established industries finding new and better ways to help people lead productive lives. We want to help businesses create these new opportunities and make sure our residents can fill those jobs.

Q. What will it take for the state to make this new economy a reality?

A. It's about building on what is already happening here in Hawai'i. Many of our young people go away to school, wondering if there will be careers here when they graduate. But the outlook is changing. We already have innovative companies, business startups and a venture capital infrastructure. Now we need a fuller community environment that supports innovation, small business and entrepreneurs. We're also working with the Chamber of Commerce to connect our residents with new job opportunities and upgrade their skills for a changing workforce. If we can support that, then we create more business opportunities for everyone.

Q. Why was it important to sign into law the bill supporting the Paris climate agreement?

A. Climate change is real. We've seen that in Hawai'i with sea level rise, coral bleaching and a record year for hurricanes. In this environment, it's important for states and governors to lead. Island states experience climate change more severely than other communities around the world. I think it's unfortunate that President Trump withdrew from the Paris Accord. America needs to be a leader among countries to fight global warming. The whole message of the Hōkūle'a was centered on the notion that we have only one planet and we need to *Mālama Honua*, "Care for the Earth."

Q. What factors do you consider before you take action on bills?

A. It's two parallel tracks — one is technical, the other is policy. The attorney general's office does a legal review to see if the bill is consistent with the state constitution and if funds are appropriated properly. The second is whether the bill makes sense from a policy perspective. State agencies affected by the bill provide recommendations for whether they support it, take no position or recommend a veto. We also welcome public comments. I take all of that into consideration and ask the questions, "Is it the right thing to do, does it do it in the right way, and does it benefit the people of Hawai'i?" to reach a decision on each bill. This year we have more than 200 bills that need signing. It's a responsibility I take very seriously.



HOMECOMING: (top) Governor Ige and Hōkūle'a navigator Nainoa Thompson. Thousands gathered June 17 to celebrate the historic, worldwide voyage.

"We have the power to change the sail plan, to restore and protect. Hōkūle'a has inspired us to stand up and be counted."

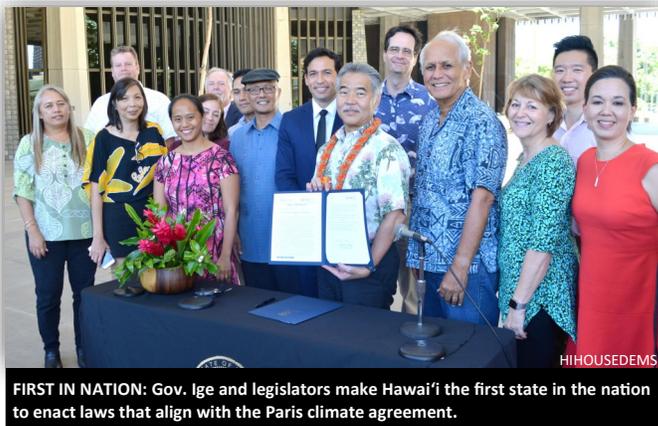
— Gov. David Ige

Hawai'i leads nation on Paris climate accord support

With the stroke of a pen, Governor Ige signed SB 559 into law (Act 032) — making Hawai'i the first state to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris climate agreement. The ceremony in the Capitol rotunda included legislators, county mayors and their representatives, famed Hōkūle'a navigator Nainoa Thompson, department heads and environmentalists. "Hawai'i is committed to environmental stewardship, and we look forward to working with other states to fight global climate change," said the governor. "We are setting a course for generations to come."

Thompson's presence sent a powerful message, as the Hōkūle'a's arrival was just hours away. "I will tell them the Hawai'i they are coming home to is strong and willing to do the right thing," he said.

"The measure adopted relevant sections of the Paris agreement as state law, which gives us legal basis to continue mitigation strategies for Hawai'i, despite the federal government's withdrawal from the agreement," said Sen. J. Kalani English, senate majority leader who introduced SB 559. The governor signed a second bill, HB 1578, establishing a Carbon Farming Task Force, to promote sustainable practices in agriculture and aquaculture. He also committed the state to the U.S. Climate Alliance, a group of 12 states and Puerto Rico that have vowed to uphold the Paris agreement on the state level.



FIRST IN NATION: Gov. Ige and legislators make Hawai'i the first state in the nation to enact laws that align with the Paris climate agreement.

U.S. Supreme Court limits Trump's executive order on travel ban

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 26 denied in part the Trump administration's request to proceed with an executive order that sought to ban travel from six Muslim-majority nations and suspend refugee admissions to the U.S. for a certain period of time.

"The important thing is that by a 6-3 vote, today's order continues to block implementation of the travel and refugee bans for people with connection to the United States," said state Attorney General Doug Chin. This includes students accepted to the University of Hawai'i and foreign nationals who want to visit family members.

Governor Ige added, "Hawai'i made the right decision in challenging a travel ban that had little factual basis and discriminated based strictly on national origin and religion. We will continue to stand against any attempts to erode the Constitution's protections and to violate existing laws."

When it reconvenes in October, the court said it will hear arguments of the 4th and 9th Circuit Court, both of which blocked the implementation of the travel ban. The case raises fundamental issues of religious discrimination and national security.

DLIR: 'hot jobs' and future growth

The good news is Hawai'i's job market has never been better for someone looking for work. That's according to the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. "We're projecting growth in nearly all major industries, including construction, hospitality, education and health services, trade, transportation and utilities," said DLIR director Linda Chu Takayama.

So what are some of the "hot jobs" now and through 2018? DLIR has a list based on education and job openings — from no formal training and high school diplomas to doctoral and professional degrees. The list ranges from restaurant waitstaff, carpenters and medical assistants to registered nurses and social workers. It also lists wages, training required and annual job openings. (hiwi.org/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/BestJobOpportunities-2017.pdf)

"We look at every job segment along the pipeline," explained Takayama. "We want to match industry demand with the different skills and training needed. We also can't define success just based on college entry since the goal is gainful employment. That could mean trade apprenticeships, shorter programs, and on-the-job training, too." Part of DLIR's kuleana is to work directly with industry leaders to develop relevant job training. They're partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, the UH community colleges and other providers for skills upgrades in banking, information technology, food manufacturing, health care and agriculture. The neighbor islands are collaborating on their own industry sectors in healthcare, food and agriculture.

The goal? To make sure local residents have the skills to find jobs and meet the needs of rapidly changing industries. DLIR has a number of useful online resources such as **HireNet Hawaii** (<http://www.hirenethawaii.com>), a one-stop online site for jobseekers and employers. They also have a list of **One-Stop Centers** across the state to help anyone looking work or wanting to make a career change. Go to labor.hawaii.gov/wdd/ for details.



WORKFORCE TEAM: DLIR director Linda Chu Takayama (standing) with Elaine Young, Carol Kanayama and Jay Ishibashi.

HTDC: Making an innovation economy real for Hawai‘i



NETWORKING: HPR's 'Bytemarks Café co-host Burt Lum, DBEDT director Luis Salaveria, Gov. Ige and HTDC director Robbie Melton.

The picture you see on **High Technology Development Corporation's (HTDC)** home page reads, "Welcome home, Brian Dote." The site tells the story of how local folks found jobs that brought them home to Hawai‘i. That's what Gov. David Ige envisions for kama‘aina: a way to reverse the "brain drain" and develop an innovation economy that combines can-do local entrepreneurship with cutting-edge technology and innovative, future-focused thinking.

Under the governor's leadership, the state is developing new ways to create at least 80,000 new tech and innovation jobs earning \$80,000 or more by 2030. If this seems like a distant goal, you just have to spend some time with HTDC director Robbie Melton to understand how real it can be for Hawai‘i.

"We're on the right trajectory," Melton said. "Now we need the right funding and community support to develop the talent that's here." For the governor, Melton and others, an innovation economy is the key to the state's future: creating technology to improve people's lives, increase business productivity and provide new, more sustainable, higher-wage jobs through 21st century education and training.

As one example of what's happening already, she points to the success of Maui Brewing Company, recently named the 2017 National Small Business Persons of the Year. The company received an **HTDC Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP)** grant to improve its efficiency and expand production. The state also is part of a national **TechHire** initiative to fast-track training for high-paying tech jobs to meet 21st century workforce demands. Employers and job seekers can go to HTDC's TechJobsHawaii.org for a listing of available positions statewide.

"We're developing training with DevLeague, the Chamber of Commerce, O'ahu WorkLinks, the state Department of Labor and a group of chief information officers from Hawai‘i companies," Melton explained. "We want to offer more bootcamps and ways to help people learn skills like coding quickly. Job training is morphing. Some say five years from now, the tech jobs people will be working at don't even exist today. You have to be able to adapt."

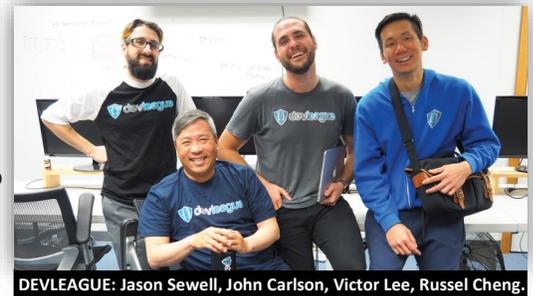
Melton said HTDC's goals include reaching out statewide through its **Neighbor Island Innovation Initiative (NI3)** to provide business assistance for small, tech-based companies, developing agriculture tech for Hawai‘i's food security, helping boost clean energy and aerospace initiatives, and working with the state's industry leaders and educators to train local talent for jobs.

"We need to find ways to match local talent with the skills needed so people don't have to go to the mainland for work," said Melton. HTDC helps build the tech community through events such as WetWare Wednesdays, entrepreneur and manufacturing events and grant workshops. Their annual Tech Fair between Christmas and New Year is a way for college students home for the holidays to see where the jobs are. HTDC also provides matching grants through its **Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR)** program to help move products into the market. For the first time, a special SBIR road tour will be coming to Hawai‘i **Sept. 18 and 19** to connect grant applicants with federal agencies that can fund technology development.

In addition to its business incubators at the **Manoa Innovation Center** and the **Maui Research and Technology Center**, HTDC expects to break ground next year for its **Entrepreneur Sandbox**, an "innovation playground" where people of all ages can come to learn new techniques such as 3-D printing, animation, gaming and digital media with a production studio and space to collaborate. "Government can help support the environment, but the entrepreneurs and innovators are the ones who are going to lead the pack," said Melton. "We have to start early with our young people so they can develop their own careers right here at home."



ENTREPRENEUR SANDBOX: HTDC expects to start construction in January 2018 on this public innovation space in Kaka‘ako for people of all ages to learn about new, 21st century technology. HTDC says every innovation job creates five additional support jobs.



DEVLEAGUE: Jason Sewell, John Carlson, Victor Lee, Russel Cheng.



THE COLLECTIVE: Rumi Murakami, Mari Nakamura, Allison Izu & Summer Shiigi joined forces to help local fashion designers.

Residents urged to prepare for hurricane season

Hurricane season has arrived, and the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) recommends residents prepare an "emergency kit" of a minimum of 14 days of food, water and other supplies. The season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

HI-EMA increased its recommendation from seven to 14 days, based on the experience of other states. "Depending on the damage, it will likely take two weeks or longer for the critical infrastructure to be operational," said administrator Vern Miyagi.

For more details, go to dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/. Residents can also download the free **ReadyHawaii** app that includes weather alerts, maps of shelters and a checklist of emergency supplies.



JAL TO KONA: Rep. Mark Nakashima, Rep. Nicole Lowen, Gov. Ige, Haunani Apoliona, JAL board chair Masaru Onishi, Wil Okabe (for Mayor Harry Kim) and Sen Lorraine Inouye.

Japan Airlines returns to Kona

Governor Ige, Japan Airlines and the state Department of Transportation have announced JAL's return to Kona International Airport on Hawai'i Island. The new service is in addition to JAL's current flights between Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Honolulu. The new daily flights are set to begin on Sept. 15, 2017.

"Japan Airlines has offered continuous service to the state for more than 60 years," said the governor. "Over the years, JAL has played a significant role in expanding our state's tourism industry, economy and cultural exchange."

New DLNR app and parakeet bill to protect isle resources

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has launched a new app to help people report violations anonymously and connect with officers at the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE).

"We do have a lot of land to cover, and the only way we're going to be able to do that is through citizen engagement," said Robert Farrell, DOCARE's enforcement chief. The app, **DLNRTip**, allows people to report illegal hunting and fishing as well as polluters. It's available free via the Google Play Store, iTunes App Store, or at dlnrhawaii.gov/docare.

On a recent trip to Kaua'i, Governor Ige signed House Bill 655 aimed at reducing the rose-ringed parakeet population. "They're one of the most widespread invasive species on the planet," he said. "They've had a tremendous impact on the island."



The bill appropriates \$75,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a plan to reduce the negative impact of the birds. Senate President Ron Kouchi compared the dangers of the parakeets, which harm native plants and fruits, to that of the coqui frog, which has spread across Hawai'i Island.

State Health Department urges precautions during mumps outbreak

An unusual outbreak of mumps in Hawai'i is being monitored by the Department of Health (DOH) as officials investigate new cases. So far, more than 100 cases have been reported statewide, with more cases across the nation, although the cause of the increase is unclear.

"People who are sick need to stay home," Dr. Sarah Park, state epidemiologist said. Mumps is a virus easily spread by coughing, sneezing, sharing utensils or touching contaminated surfaces. Symptoms include swelling of salivary glands,

fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness and loss of appetite. Many people have no symptoms at all, which is one reason it can infect clusters of individuals. DOH said the best prevention is to ensure families are vaccinated with the MMR vaccine.

Symptoms usually start 16 to 18 days after infection. People with mumps are infectious several days *before* they develop swollen glands, making it challenging to avoid exposure in close spaces, such as schools or offices. For more information, visit health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/mumps/.

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